REMARKS

Applicant has addressed the 112 rejection by removing the term "temporarily" from the claims. The claims now recite a definite time period for the increase in the voltage applied to the enable terminal. In particular, the increase occurs during a transition from the first to the second preselected voltage level at the input terminal.

Applicant has reviewed the cited references and agrees with Examiner that they each recite (in various fashion) one or more RC attenuator circuits.

However, contrary to the assertions in the Office Action, the claims of the present invention do not recite an RC attenuator. The transistor is not, as the Office Action maintains, merely acting in substitution of a discrete resistor in parallel with the capacitor. It is true that a transistor, continuously biased ON, may provide impedance between its input and output terminals. However, unlike a discrete resistor the transistor may define a parasitic capacitance that may cooperate with a resistive element coupled to the transistor's enable terminal. Such cooperation may act to increase the voltage applied to the transistor's enable terminal (typically the gate terminal) during the transition of a signal at the input terminal from a first to a second preselected voltage level. In other words, unlike a discrete resistor the transistor exhibits voltage "pumping" at the enable terminal to affect the impedance between the input and output terminals during a transition from the first to the second preselected voltage level at the input terminal.

In fact, such "pumping" action is contrary to "attenuation" action in that the effect of such pumping action may in some circumstances actually enhance the signal propagation from input to output terminals. Attenuation typically involves the inhibition of signal propagation.

The claims recite an advantageous signal voltage-level converter that is distinguished in structure, function, and application from the circuits in the cited prior art. Applicant has clearly described the differences. Allowance of all claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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